

Americans with Disabilities Act

Interim Transition Plan

September 2015

The City of Miami Springs is committed to the principals of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended, and the provisions of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It has taken some time to be in a position to adequately address all related issues. We are now in the process of completing a full self-evaluation and transition plan as required by these regulations. However, from the beginning of the City, City staff has attempted to conform its practices to the requirement of these laws as best we could given the City initial financial challenges and lack of staff.

Below is a brief status of our accomplishment to date. We are continuing to expand on these, not waiting for the self-evaluation to be completed.

City Hall

The City Hall has accessible ramps and doorways throughout the area in an effort to provide easy access to all departments. City Hall provides easily accessible parking locations for customers needing assistance, as well as user friendly service counters. Restrooms are all compliant to ADA standards. Meeting room is also compliant.

Parks & Recreation

The City has several parks. The City has made great strides in retrofitting these facilities where possible to accommodate persons with disabilities. All buildings are accessible with designated parking. However, in many of these facilities, it is physically and financially impossible to bring them into full compliance.

At this date, most of the City's program offerings are also available to persons with disabilities.

Personnel/ Human Resources

Employee Work Policies: The City of Miami Springs does not tolerate any form of harassment or discrimination and is committed to equal opportunity employment. These issues are all clearly addressed in issued Administrative Orders which outlines what is considered harassment and those groups, including the disabled who are protected under the City's policy.

The main areas that relate to people with disabilities are listed below:

1. OUR POLICY ON UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT
2. OUR POLICY ON EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
3. OUR POLICY ON REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

Employee Reasonable Accommodation Requests: Reasonable accommodation requests are handled with the utmost respect and confidentiality. Human Resources Staff maintains separate files on a variety of areas including: personnel, payroll, benefits and medical/reasonable accommodation requests.

Training: The City will implement annual trainings in the near future when funding is available. In order to provide an environment that does not tolerate discrimination, the City requires that its employees be aware of issues facing people with disabilities. Human Resources is committed to providing future regular training in the following areas:

- Sexual Harassment Awareness
- Domestic Violence Training
- Requirement of ADA and Section 503
- How to work with people who have disabilities
- How to work with individuals suffering from mental illness

In addition to group trainings, employees are also encouraged to take classes in areas that impact their individual positions.

Recruiting and Training: The City actively recruits residents for employment. We do this by advertising in local newspapers and by posting job openings in community spaces at City Hall and on our website.

Communications/ Notices

Advertisements and Marketing: The two key areas of City programs that require advertising/ marketing are meeting notices and advertisements for employment:

Meeting Notices

The City has been publishing its notices of meetings in local newspapers. In particular, the City Council Agenda has been published with the required ADA notice of assistance available. The City utilizes the services of a translation service. Employment ads have also carries an anti- discrimination notice.

Job Postings

Employment opportunities are posted in a variety of publications and announcements are posted at City Hall and on the City's website. All announcements state that Miami Springs is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer through the standard, accepted notation: "EOE M/F/D/V; Drug-Free Workplace." Job information including job descriptions, employment applications and other forms can be downloaded from City's website www.miamisprings-fl.gov.

On-Site Notices and Signage: Located at every City facility is an ADA and 504 Notice. This posting clearly outlines the City's non-discrimination policy. It has the name, phone number and address for City's 504/ADA coordinator to call in case a person feels that he or she has been discriminated against. It also lists the TDD number to call. This notice is printed in 24 font and on a 11x17 inch sign.

City's Website: A number of forms, lists and other vital information can be found on City's website, www.miamisprings-fl.gov. These include: Job openings, Applications for Employment, information about City's different departments, key phone numbers, and City's ADA-related policies. Most items on the website can be viewed by person's with vision impairments in larger font through the viewer's browser or can be downloaded and printed in larger font.

TTY/ Interpretation Services: CITY has arrangements with several private services for interpretations services and also used Florida Relay Services for telephonic communications. Requests for such services in connection with City business can be made with 48 hours notice through the Office of the City Clerk.

Policies/ Procedures/ Forms

Forms- The City of Miami Springs offers forms in a variety of formats to accommodate a variety of disabilities though we believe that the self-evaluation will provide additional guidance in this area. We freely mail forms to Residents and Applicants who are unable to obtain them at one of our offices. We offer forms in an enlarged font for those who have a visual disability upon request and make many of

the forms available on the City's website. Council meetings are available in audio format upon request. City Staff is always available to help resident fill out forms.

Grievance Procedure and Complaint Process

Grievance Procedure: The City's Grievance Process is outlined on this website provides a timeline for the grievance process. It describes the procedures to obtain a hearing and the procedures governing a hearing.

ADA Complaint/Resolution Forms*: This is used when a resident wishes to file a complaint against staff. It requires supervisors to respond to the resident/customer within 3 working days. It gives options for follow-up via a phone call or meeting in person. After the complaint has been filed, the supervisor must follow up with a Resolution Report stating what came about in the initial investigation and if the client was satisfied with the outcome. It allows the client to appeal to a higher level if they desire. This form is also available on this web site.

* Both the Grievance and Complaint Resolution forms are optional and residents can file a complaint in person or over the telephone with the City Clerk's Office. If a resident wants to fill out a form and is unable to, then the appropriate staff person will assist them.

Use of Contracts

In order to provide opportunities to disadvantaged businesses, the City created the standard language in all of its contracts to ensure that the contractor is familiar with City policy regarding discrimination and its effort to expand opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses. It requires that contractors also utilize these affirmative efforts to increase participation in such contracts.

Bidding and Request for Proposal (RFP) Process: The City maintains a list of registered vendors to whom it distributes any RFP or bidding opportunities, both in-house and through DemandStar, an on-line bidding service open to all bidders. In order to maintain the diversity of this list, the purchasing staff does outreach to disadvantaged businesses including holding special workshops. In addition to this outreach, the City publishes RFPs and request for bids in the following newspapers: The Miami Herald, DemandStar.com, and the Daily Business Review.